

ATTUS OTIOSUS HENTZ, 1846 (ARANEAE, SALTICIDAE):
PROPOSED CONSERVATION UNDER THE PLENARY
POWERS. Z.N.(S.) 2355

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The jumping spider known as *Phidippus otiosus* (Hentz) is common to the southeastern portion of the United States of America and a well-known spider of the region. The species was described as *Attus otiosus* Hentz, 1846; the name has become well established and has only once been challenged until recently. Walckenaer, 1837, described many species of American spiders; in most cases these descriptions were based on the drawings of John Abbot, 1792. American araneologists considered Walckenaer's descriptions invalid, as there were no specimens on which the descriptions were based, and the drawings of Abbot were presumed lost. However, McCook, 1888, discovered Abbot's manuscript in the British Museum (Natural History), but it was not until Chamberlain & Ivie, 1944, studied Abbot's drawings that any *en masse* changing of names in favour of Walckenaer occurred. By this time, the names of Hentz had been in continual usage for nearly 100 years.

2. Walckenaer described 3 of Abbot's drawings as *Attus pulcher*, *Attus pulcher pallida*, and *Attus peregrinus*. Chamberlin & Ivie decided, correctly, that all 3 illustrations represented the same species; they therefore synonymized *A. pulcher pallida* and *A. peregrinus* with *A. pulcher*, which had page and figure number priority. They also synonymized *Attus otiosus* Hentz with *A. pulcher*. In so doing, they synonymized an established name in favour of a name which had not even been properly placed to genus before 1944 (Bonnet, 1955, in a review of all araneological works through 1939, lists the species as *Attus pulcher*). Even though Chamberlin & Ivie resurrected the name as *Phidippus pulcher* (Walckenaer), *P. otiosus* (Hentz) continued to be the name used by American authors, even by Kaston, 1978, and Muma, 1975, who otherwise have followed Chamberlin & Ivie's resurrections of older names. Recently, the name *P. otiosus* has been used in the fields of physiology (Anderson, 1966), morphology (Hill, 1979), and ethology (Edwards et al., 1974; Edwards, 1977; Richman, 1977).

3. Peckham & Peckham, the first revisers of *Phidippus*, used the name *P. otiosus* (Hentz) for the species in question in 1901 and 1909. The name *otiosus* has been used more than 20 times in the literature, mostly as *Phidippus otiosus*, rarely as *Dendryphantes*

otiosus or *Attus otiosus*; since 1930, it has been used at least 13 times by 11 different authors; it is *Phidippus otiosus* in the popular books by Kaston (1972, 1978, *How to Know the Spiders*, 2nd and 3rd editions), Gertsch (1979, *American Spiders*, 2nd edition), and in all printings of Levi & Levi (1968–1978, *Spiders and Their Kin*). The name *Phidippus pulcher* has been used only three times since 1944. Richman, 1978, while attempting to determine the status of Walckenaer's names as they applied to various salticid species, agreed with Chamberlin & Ivie that *P. otiosus* was a synonym of *P. pulcher*, and used the name in a salticid checklist (Richman & Cutler, 1978). However, Richman (personal communication, 1978) has agreed that *P. otiosus* is the name that is used most often and, based on this reason, has no objection to its continued usage.

4. To preserve usage as it has been for 132 out of 134 years of existence of the name *otiosus*, the Commission is requested:

- (1) to use its plenary powers:
 - (a) to suppress the specific name *pulcher* Walckenaer, 1837, as published in the binomen *Attus pulcher*, for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy;
 - (b) to suppress the specific names *pulcher pallida* Walckenaer, 1837, and *peregrinus* Walckenaer, 1837, as published in the trinomen *Attus pulcher pallida* and the binomen *Attus peregrinus*, both junior subjective synonyms of *Attus pulcher* Walckenaer, 1837, for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy;
- (2) to place the specific name *otiosus* Hentz, 1846, as published in the binomen *Attus otiosus*, on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
- (3) to place the specific and subspecific names *pulcher* Walckenaer, 1837, *pulcher pallida* Walckenaer, 1837, and *peregrinus* Walckenaer, 1837, as published in the combinations *Attus pulcher*, *Attus pulcher pallida*, and *Attus peregrinus* (as suppressed under the plenary powers in (1)(a) and (1)(b) above) on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology.

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